Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—This side have you conducted the survey? It has not been brought into effect. If lands are available, people will jump at it. You won't find any difficulty in disposing.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Some portions are deep water and some portions are shallow.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Of course, the matter may be looked into.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—By way of information, I want to know what exactly is meant by assignable area. What is the standard fixed for determining whether an area available is assignable or not?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot say now what were the considerations which influenced the Revenue officers in determining an area to be an assignable area. There might have been several considerations. For instance, the extent, the width or the breadth of the channel, the deep or shallow character of the area and the regularity of the coast line. We don't generally allow coast lines to be made irregular. And very deep portions are not made available for assignment as it will be difficult to reclaim them. These are the considerations which might have influenced the Revenue officer in determining the assignable area.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In other words, have you fixed the area required for traffic or canal communications?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The assignable area has been fixed. The same standard does not apply to all the localities. There are several considerations?

President.—Any of the Hon'ble Members wishing to speak?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not want to press it to a division.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

7. Straightening the Ernakulam Foreshore Line.

President.—Mr. P. Krishna Menon.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—This resolution refers to a portion of Ernakulam. The resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the growing demand for House sites and open places for recreation purposes in Ernakulam, steps may be taken to straighten the Ernakulam foreshore line at least from the Huzur jetty southwards up to Thevara canal by putting up a granite rubble bund and to reclaim the portions of the backwater thus enclosed."

I said advisedly that it refers to a portion of the Ernakulam backwater frontage because I know that some scheme is under preparation for reclaiming a portion or rather a major portion

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of Ernakulam foreshore frontage by putting up revetment walls and making use of the places thus made available for certain purposes. My resolution refers exclusively to that portion of the frontage from the Huzur jetty southwards up to Thevara canal. Though I cannot say that I possess the technical knowledge of engineering I may say that if that foreshore line is straightened, I think about an area of 137 acres will be made available for purposes which may be decided upon later. As I have said in my resolution itself there is a dearth of open places and even of house sites in Ernakulam and if this congestion is to be removed and the necessity for open spaces has to be met, unless some new area is brought under service, it will be impossible for any extension or improvement. The northern half of the town will not be available for these purposes. For, the frontage on the northern side is practically occupied now and only a few acres will be available which in all probability will be taken up by roads and perhaps one or two bits of gardens. The question of supplying house sites and also open spaces will not be solved by this reclamation or by this extension. To meet these two, so far as I am aware there is no possible method of supplying these unless the reclamation is effected on the southern side also. Now one difficulty may be pointed out by persons who have looked into the matter, namely, that that portion is very deep and it is not easy to reclaim that portion much less to put up the revetment walls or the embankment whatever you may call it. So far as my knowledge goes, I do not think that there is any deep portion in the area chalked out here, which is more than a sixth of the whole area. The rest of the places are very shallow and the question of the possibility or impossibility of the reclamation or putting up a bund will not be a very serious matter so far as my knowledge goes. Whether that could be done with advantage—the two advantages that I have already mentioned and also the additional advantage of profit to Government is also another question. If that area of about 130 and odd acres is reclaimed after reserving open spaces and even provision for roads, my rough estimate is that about 80 to 90 acres will be available for sale to persons who are ready to take it up. Now, on an average the cost of reclamation is Rs. 5,000 per acre. From one of the reports that has been submitted by Mr. Dann, I find he has estimated the cost of reclamation to be about Rs. 5,000 per acre. And if this frontage is sold, certainly I would think that the Government will not be a loser taking into account the sal-eprice that will be realised by the Government and the capitalised value of the assessment which will be a recurring income to the Government.

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So even financially I don't think it is a loss to the Government. Even if it is a financial loss to the Government, in the interest of the health of the Town and in the interest of the healthy growth of the children of the schools, I submit it is a necessity and the Government will be pleased to take up the question as early as practicable.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I second this resolution. In seconding this resolution I may bring to the notice of this House that there are two resolutions of mine Nos. 27 and 21 more or less bearing upon this matter. I may refer first to resolution No. 27.

"This Council recommends that the Irwin Park, Ernakulam, be extended by different stages, to the northern limits of the town and that the breadth of the park be increased by reclaiming the shallow portion of the backwater lying to the west of it".

Resolution No. 21 : "This Council recommends that the Ernakulam fore-shore, lying behind the main bazaar, be raised to a suitable height and thus reclaim what now is really a marsh in front of the town." The resolution under discussion deals directly with the southern portion. But in seconding that resolution, I may also bring to the notice of Government and this House that that work should form part of a comprehensive plan for the improvement of the frontage and foreshore of this town. It was about 30 years ago, during the time of Mr. Rajagopalachariar, that the idea to undertake an extensive cleaning of this town particularly its frontage was conceived. Work was started by Diwan Sir P. Rajagopalachariar and vigorously carried on by Mr. A.R. Banerji and the result of those two Diwans' efforts we find to-day. Whatever we find by way of frontage cleanliness is almost entirely due to those Diwans. Three decades have passed since, and it is high time that something comprehensive is undertaken to complete the work started by them. This, I submit should immediately be undertaken. We have got a foreshore of about 3 miles length, which can, with advantage, be converted into one continous line, say about 75 or 100 yards to the west of the existing foreshore line. I understand that the backwater there is very shallow and the reclamation charges are likely to be small. From a financial point of view, the project ought to be successful. The charges for reclaiming the Venduruthi shoals which are much more deep, came to, on an average, Rs. 12,000 per acre. The foreshore of Ernakulam was, during Banerji's time, auctioned at prices ranging between Rs. 300 and and Rs. 150 per cent, that is,to Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 15,000 per acre. There is no reason why the newly reclaimed land situated

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in the very front of the town should fetch a lesser price; it will be open to the sea breezes direct and should be very valuable property. Assuming that it costs about Rs. 10,000 per acre to reclaim, if we will sell the land as business sites or house sites, the price fetched by that sale will be much more than the expenses of reclamation and it will be a considerable gain to the Government from a financial point of view. So this scheme ought to be properly worked out. These works ought to be comprehensive. For the extension and improvement of an important town like this, work done should be constructive and methodical. The work is, besides, of some urgency and great importance. What was the state of Ernakulam at the time of Mr. Rajagopalachari? I have only a faint memory of the conditions that existed then. There were series of slums; the dirty marshy places; and cholera raging in a more or less endemic form. In short Ernakulam was uninhabitable. When I visited Ernakulam somewhere about 1906, I could not take a walk from the northern end to the southern end of the town without getting nosiated If those Diwans were able to bring about such great changes in Ernakulam there is no reason why we should not continue the good work. We are not to be discouraged by being told that the work may be costly. The Government should tackle the scheme of extending the foreshore line and reclaiming the foreshore right up to the end of the town and of extending the Irwin Park so as to provide more play grounds and recreation places to students and also to provide accommodation for building sites and business sites. I am very glad to find that the Chief Engineer has gone ahead with suggestions of his own. I suppose they are economically sound and acceptable to the Government. In any case something ought to be done to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I agree to the proposition. But I take preliminary objection that this ought to have come from the Municipal Council of Ernakulam. Since it is a matter affecting the town of Ernakulam the proper procedure would have been for that Council to move in the matter and request the Government to get down an expert and find out the possibility or otherwise of this proposition. Then they could have come before this House and asked for a grant which this Council would have readily granted. But that is beside the point.

I am very glad to know from the Hon'ble Members themselves that after all Ernakulam is not such a wide town in the matter of space, for its development. I am doubly glad to have heard such a confession from the representatives of Ernakulam itself. It was on this very account that we had to move in this

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very Council, for the last 5 years, for a change of the College site from Ernakulam to a useful and a healthy place. It is very curious to hear gentlemen who raised such loud protests against the shifting of the College by saying that Ernakulam had every scope and facilities for extension to now come and request the Government to reclaim the backwaters so as to provide facilities. I was surprised to hear my Hon'ble friend estimating the cost of the reclamation to about a lakh and odd of rupees. But for that matter I shall be assured by asking the Chief Engineer whether the calculation is right.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I shall read the figures of the Chief Engineer.

D r. A. R. Menon.—No, I will accept your statement. Now they have come and confessed to us that they have no sites for play grounds, for house construction and for recreation grounds; and the very same gentlemen are knocking about Ernakulam to find out whether they can get 30 or 40 acres of land for the extention of the College and often meet with repulses from the owners of the land.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—How do you come to know that ?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I have so many means of knowing things. This seems to be an attempt behind the belt. I cannot understand this position of theirs. They want themselves to be placed behind the belt. They can very well say that large acres of land should be reclaimed from the sea and at the same time these gentlemen think they can have the college located here very easily. The question now is how to provide house sites. This question may be considered along with the question of the Port also. I shall be very glad if you will try to provide more house sites to the people to live in. Then I would ask why they could not try to fill up the marshy places behind the town ? I suppose this could be done with profit. Then there would be an unlimited space. By means of this you would be able to solve the question of house sites. Therefore the question is that you should consider whether it is possible to cover the marshy places. The best thing then would be to do it. Then if you are so very anxious of putting up the College here, you can have an educational centre or a residential centre on the other side and have a business centre on this side. I am very glad that this confession came up. I am glad that this confession came from the Member—the most enthusiastic Member who is very keen for keeping the College here. I do not know now where his terms 'vandalism' and 'nepotism' have gone to. I am very glad that he himself came to this Council and confessed

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that there is want of space in Ernakulam and that there is no unlimited scope for extension in this place.

Rama Varmha Tampuran. —Sir, there is already a proposal to extend and straighten the foreshore on the northern side of the Huzur jetty. The one to the south, it is not known whether we could take up straight away, because the port limits have to be fixed before we do that. That to the north can more easily be taken up. The matter was first taken up by the Harbour people and they had a survey of the area to be reclaimed. Now they say that their programme is already full and that they may not be able to undertake the work for some time to come.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—How long?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—For about two years or more. So it will have to be taken up by the State D. P. W. The matter is now at that stage and the question of extending it to the south will have to be further looked into.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—With regard to the observations made by the Honourable Secretary I have very little to add; because the reclamation to the northern part is to be taken up shortly. It may not be found possible to extend it to the south also at once. That is the position and it is certainly very reasonable too. But there is one thing. The area that will be made available by carrying out the improvements to the northern half of the town is, if I understand correctly, about 30 or 40 acres.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—30 to 40 acres.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the whole of the portion so reclaimed be taken up for house sites?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A portion of it will be reserved for house sites.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So that I want to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that the crying need for want of house sites will not be overlooked. I would also request the Government to ascertain if there is any possibility of taking up the question to the southern portion also and paying more attention to the suggestion.

But I must take this opportunity of replying to the Hon'ble Member for Trichur who seems—what shall I say—to lose his temper whenever the name of Ernakulam is mentioned. I can understand really the interest that my learned friend takes so far as Ernakulam is concerned. That little question of our water-supply is awaiting orders because the report of the Hon'ble Member for Trichur has not yet been submitted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Oh, I will send it to-morrow.

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Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Now, with regard to the question of the removal of the College I am one of the persons who advocated against the idea of the removal of the College from here. My Hon'ble friend from Trichur is yet to know what exactly is the reason that prompted us to oppose the removal and what exactly are the considerations that we are taking into account in suggesting or investigating the possibility or the feasibility of its retention in Ernakulam. It is not because that Trichur has not got 500 acres of waste land. It is not because that we have got 500 acres of waste land in Ernakulam. I may tell my Hon'ble friend that there is not an inch of waste land in Ernakulam. He may be proud of the 500 acres of waste land in Trichur.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, on a point of order. The discussion is not regarding the removal of the College. It is not the part of the resolution taken up now.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not want to dwell upon it, Sir. It is simply to show that I have many replies to these attacks which are delivered from behind and hitting below the belt, according to his own words.

In the face of the facts mentioned by the Honourable Secretary I do not want to press the motion.

The resolution was, therefore withdrawn with the leave of the House.

8. Imposition on Forest Exclusions.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, the subject-matter of this resolution is not new to this Council. It is as old as the Council itself. I have been bringing it to the notice of the Diwan President in this Council every year and every time he was seen taking down notes. In the 1105 Budget Session he showed his sincerity and exhibited his surprise by interrupting me in my speech to enquire whether it was Rs. 2—8—0 per acre. On my replying 'yes' he took down notes with much avidity which made the onlookers think that the matter had gone home and would be seriously considered. But yet nothing was done. The fact of this rehearsal of 1105 was brought to his notice during the last Budget Session. Then also he was seen taking down notes. Six months have passed by since and nothing is heard to have been done. If I may, aposteriori, hazard the guess that he might have been pencilling a caricature of me and apostrophying to his production, 'O! you fool, where is justice to me when it is a matter of Rs., as., ps.? I do not think I will be accused of wanting a reason'. Whatever it be, we have to pay

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